

throughout the trip. Although 5,000 miles in eighteen months would be an average of only ten miles a day, yet the constant strain would have worn out a horse of poor blood. Dr. Ostrup passed through Syria, Asia Minor, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Germany. In spite of his special credentials he had some hair breath escapes in Asia Minor and Syria.

In the resting place of the old kings of Denmark, the Cathedral of Roskilde, a recent visitor notes that there is a column against which a number of monarchs have been measured and upon which their different heights are recorded. One of them is Peter the Great, and we learn by this means that the shipwright czar measured no less than eighty Danish inches, equivalent to something like six feet ten inches in our measurement. Only one other of the sovereigns was taller, and that was Christian I., of Denmark, who according to this authority, was just a trifle over seven feet English. The czar, Alexander III., is about six feet one inch and is about a couple of inches taller than Christian IX. of Denmark, and about four inches taller than King George of Greece, neither of whom, nevertheless, is what would be called a short man. It is worth noting that in the same ancient cathedral, where this column is to be seen, Saxo Grammaticus, the Danish historian, from whom Shakespeare borrowed practically the entire plot of "Hamlet," lies buried.

OUR STOCKHOLM LETTER.

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 4, 1894.—As soon as an anarchist has thrown a bomb, by which, perhaps, several persons have been killed, there is talk of dynamite, but very seldom, at such occasion, people think of the man, who invented these terrible means for the purpose of favoring the modern technicals and not for the aim of furnishing the enemies of society with a dreadful weapon.

The inventor of the dynamite is Alfred Nobel, a Swedish engineer. A few facts about the life of this remarkable man may be read with interest. Nobel was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and emigrated when a young man to Russia, where he soon built up a large fortune by coming into possession of large petroleum wells.

The inventor is living a very quiet and happy life. He spends the winter at his villa in San Remo where he works in his studio, as he pleases, having the prospect, however, of being blown to atoms at any moment. He stays a part of the summer in Switzerland, or makes a voyage aboard his aluminium steam yacht. Once in a while he goes to Paris, where he likes to live in his little palace, near the Bois du Bologne, for a few days only, as he gets soon tired of the noise of the big French capital. The great inventor has neither wife nor children. His only relative is a nephew, who is the owner of immense petroleum wells near the Caspian Sea. Besides chemistry there is one thing, which keeps the inventor of the dynamite busy, and that is—peace, Nobel being a very prominent member of the many anti-war societies of Europe. His ideal aim is to make war as terrible, that it will become an impossibility.

Prof. Lieblein has written a series of articles in the Christiania Aftenposten,

in which remarkable editorials he advises his countrymen to take warning of the fate of Poland. He obtained the initiative to write on this subject through an article in a French paper, which concluded its description of the political struggle on the Scandinavian peninsula with the following question: "Can it be, that the Norwegians have not read the history of Poland?"

Prof. Lieblein found that the question was very proper, as the unfortunate fate of Poland gives both a sad and warning example of how hatred, discord and persecution amongst two political parties can carry an even mighty realm to ruin and destruction.

"Norway," says the professor, "is an independent kingdom as also Poland was once, and the Norwegians ought not to be as discordant as the Poles were because, in that case, the same fate will happen to them as happened to the Poles. We may be slain by our neighbors, who are the Swedes. It is likely that our radical demagogues will tell us so, as they seem to regard, once for all, the Swede as an adversary, if not an enemy, instead of a brother, which he really is both on account of tie of blood and history.

"It is proper to acknowledge that the old party of the left is worth all praise because it always insisted upon, that Norway ought to be a kingdom fully independent of Sweden. We have, in principal, obtained everything we can ask for in the Union, and all that we need in order to develop ourselves in every way possible and at the same time maintain our position as an independent nation. We have gained a victory in principal. What remains to be done, can surely be arranged through friendly transactions between Norway and Sweden. With a good will on each side a satisfactory solution of the difficulties ought to be found, if not today or to-morrow, at least some time in the near future.

"But, unfortunately, the extreme radical elements do not seem to be willing to await that time; they intend either to carry through their wish immediately by means of force and violence, or dissolve the Union. As they ought to know, that they will never succeed by using force, everybody must arrive at the conclusion that they aim at the annihilation of the Union. If our usurped and implacable leaders have resolved to undertake this, it cannot be denied that the comparison with Poland is very striking. For albeit Norway is by itself an independent realm, she forms a unity with Sweden as compared to other states. The essential benefit and importance of the Union are, that the two kingdoms shall stand together in war against foreign countries, that they shall defend the Scandinavian peninsula against any hostile powers and preserve it whole and independent.

"Those, who try to rouse strife and dissension amongst the inhabitant of the two countries only in order to promote their own interest or the interest of their party, those demagogues act as the Poles, and history shall pronounce the same sentence of condemnation and curse in regard to them, as once befell the Poles, if the punishment for their inflexible stubbornness and unbribed egotism—not spirit of liberty and patriotism, as they call it themselves—should come as heavy over the United kingdoms as formerly over Poland.

"If the Union should be dissolved, our strength against foreign powers would amount to nothing. But the annihilation of the Union signifies more. It means that Sweden and Norway, after the old hatred between the two nationalities had again been aroused, would turn against and, perhaps, tear each other to pieces. If this does not happen, the parties within Norway will try to destroy each other."

Prof. Lieblein concludes his last article with the following manly words in favor of the maintenance of the Union:

"United, shall Sweden and Norway always occupy a prominent position in Europe. Protected as they are by their natural boundaries, they shall probably, hereafter as hitherto, escape hostile attacks. They shall be able to use, in peace and rest, their natural resources. Our national life shall develop itself independently, and, if fortune does favor us, bloom and bear fruits, which will bring happiness and blessings to ourselves and be of profit to Europe. In other words: we will be able to fulfill our national duty, to accomplish our national share in the mutual labor of all humanity. Only in that way we will succeed as a people in living a life, which will not be in vain."

The Public Libraries of Sweden are among the best in Europe. First in rank, both as regards appointments, grants, and number of volumes, stands the Royal Library in Stockholm, which since 1878 is housed in a new building erected at a cost of close upon \$300,000. The volumes number 230,000 besides 7,800 manuscripts, many thousand portfolios containing maps, engraving, smaller prints, etc. The accession of 1892 was 1,194 foreign works, while in the same year 13,162 issued from the Swedish press. The libraries of the universities of Upsala (about 230,000 volumes) and Lund (about 140,000) have also of late years been granted more extensive premises, and have larger reading-rooms and increased grants for purchases. The Academy of Sciences owns about 60,000 volumes; the other libraries being all of less extent. Among older and more valuable libraries though at present without noticeable increase, or accessibility, the school libraries in Strengnas, Vesteras, Skara, Linköping and Vexjö (the old episcopal town) ought to be mentioned. At other colleges there are less important collections of books. The Popular and Parish Libraries are developing rapidly, both in the capital and in a great number of parishes in the country. Private libraries with family archives, often of a very respectable age, are to be found in several provinces, even if, during the past decades, not a few of them have been dispersed, while hardly a single private library of any importance has been founded during the same period.

The navy of Norway is, as known, very large, but the quality does not at all correspond with the quantity. According to the English technical magazine *Engineering*, Norway's annual loss of ship is proportionally five times as large as that of Great Britain, and on that account Norway occupies the very lowest position among all civilized countries in regard to the safety of its sailors. A discussion on this subject was held at a meeting of ship owners some time ago, Congressman Gunnar, Knudsen